



Appn. No. 10/002,763

Claims Amendment

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In the Claims:

GROUP 3600

Claims 1-26 (canceled)

27. (new): A picking rake comprising:

a) a right rake unit comprising:

a) a right rake head comprising a structure bounded by a right tine end, a right handle end opposite said right tine end, and a right middle edge adjoining said right tine end and said right handle end,

b) a right rake handle comprising an elongated member having a right distal end and a right proximal end,

c) wherein said right handle end of said right rake head is connected to said right distal end,

b) a left rake unit comprising:

a) a left rake head comprising a structure bounded by a left tine end, a left handle end opposite said left tine end, and a left middle edge adjoining said left tine end and said left handle end,

b) a left rake handle comprising an elongated member having a left distal end and a left proximal end,

c) wherein said left handle end of said left rake head is connected to said left distal end, and

c) a first means to releasably hold together said right rake unit and said left rake unit such that said right tine end and said left tine end are aligned substantially side by side forming a continuous contour, said right middle edge adjacent said left middle edge, and said right rake handle adjacent said left rake handle,

whereby when the two rake heads are connected to each other, a wider raking span is provided, whereby when the two rake heads are detached from each other, both can

become a tool for picking up material, and whereby a user using said picking rake can work more efficiently and with less fatigue compared to using a common rake for gathering material and another method for picking said material because said user is able to shift from raking to picking and vice versa without having to change tools each time.

28. (new): The picking rake in claim 27 further including a second means to join said right rake handle to said left rake handle towards said right proximal end, said second means selected from a group comprising:

A. a means comprising:

- a) a first right aperture on said right rake handle disposed near said right proximal end,
- b) a first left aperture on said left rake handle disposed near said left proximal end,
- c) cord, chain, or equivalent flexible elongated material, and
- d) wherein said cord, chain, or equivalent flexible elongated material is threaded through said first right aperture and said first left aperture and closed off at each end with a knot or equivalent retainer;

B. a means comprising:

- a) a second right aperture on said right rake handle disposed near said right proximal end,
- b) a second left aperture on said left rake handle disposed near said left proximal end,
- c) a chain comprising at least two links, said chain having a first link on one end and a last link on the other end,
- d) wherein said first link is secured to said second right aperture, and
- e) wherein said last link is secured to said second left aperture,

C. a means comprising:

- a) a third right aperture on said right rake handle disposed near said right proximal end,
- b) a first ring secured to said third right aperture,
- c) a second ring disposed and retained on a section of said left rake handle closest said first ring, said second ring capable of turning freely around the perimeter of said left rake handle, and
- d) wherein said first ring is linked to said second ring,

D. a means comprising:

- a) a first screw eye mounted near said right proximal end of said right rake handle,
- b) a second screw eye mounted on a section of said left rake handle closest said first screw eye, and
- c) a third ring linking said first screw eye to said second screw eye,

E. a means comprising:

- a) a fourth right aperture on said right rake handle disposed near said right proximal end,
- b) a fourth left aperture on said left rake handle disposed on a section of said left rake handle closest said fourth right aperture, and
- c) a fourth ring of size capable of being loosely threaded through said fourth right aperture and said fourth left aperture,

whereby said second means allows at least one of the rake units to pivot such that said right rake head can substantially face said left rake head, and whereby said second means further allows the facing rake units to be drawn apart from or be drawn closer to each other when at least one of the rake handles is swung outwardly or inwardly respectively.

29. (new): A dual-handle for a raking and picking up tool having a dual gathering component comprising:

- a) a first handle comprising an elongated member having a first distal end and a first proximal end,

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- b) a second handle comprising an elongated member having a second distal end and a second proximal end,
 - c) wherein the first and second distal ends are each connected to one gathering component of said dual gathering component of said tool.
 - d) a means to join said first handle to said second handle towards said first proximal end, said means selected from a group comprising:
 - A. a means comprising:
 - a) a first right aperture on said first handle disposed near said first proximal end,
 - b) a first left aperture on said second handle disposed near said second proximal end,
 - c) cord, chain, or equivalent flexible elongated material, and
 - d) wherein said cord, chain, or equivalent flexible elongated material is threaded through said first right aperture and said first left aperture and closed off at each end with a knot or equivalent retainer,
 - B. a means comprising:
 - a) a second right aperture on said first handle disposed near said first proximal end,
 - b) a second left aperture on said second handle disposed near said second proximal end,
 - c) a chain comprising at least two links, said chain having a first link on one end and a last link on the other end,
 - d) wherein said first link is secured to said second right aperture, and
 - e) wherein said last link is secured to said second left aperture,
 - C. a means comprising:
 - a) a third right aperture on said first handle disposed near said right proximal end,
 - b) a first ring secured to said third right aperture,

c) a second ring receivable outside said second handle and retained on a section thereon closest said first ring, said second ring capable of rotating freely along its longitudinal axis around the perimeter of said second handle, and

d) wherein said first ring is linked to said second ring,

D. a means comprising:

a) a first screw eye mounted near said first proximal end of said first handle,

b) a second screw eye mounted on a section of said second handle closest said first screw eye, and

c) a third ring linking said first screw eye to said second screw eye,

E. a means comprising:

a) a fourth right aperture on said first handle disposed near said first proximal end,

b) a fourth left aperture on said second handle disposed on a section of said second rake handle closest said fourth right aperture, and


c) a fourth ring of size capable of being loosely threaded through said fourth right aperture and said fourth left aperture,

whereby at least one of the handles can pivot and swing inwardly and outwardly to reposition the gathering components of said tool.

30. (new): The dual-handle in claim 29 further including at least one hand grip or equivalent handling member comprising a branch extending substantially transversely from at least one of the handles and disposed thereon within reach of a user with an extended arm whereon said user can hold said dual-handle when gathering and picking material.

31. (new): The dual-handle in claim 30 wherein at least one said handling member is movable and fixable along the length of the rake handle it is on by some third means whereby said dual-handle can be adapted to users of different height and arm reach.

32. (new): The dual-handle in claim 29 wherein at least one of the handles is adjustable in length by some fourth means.
33. (new): The dual-handle in claim 29 wherein said first handle is shorter than said second handle and wherein said means is disposed toward said first proximal end on said first handle and on a section of said second handle closest to said first proximal end when the first and second distal ends are substantially aligned.
34. (new): The picking rake in claim 28 wherein said right rake handle is shorter than said left rake handle and wherein said second means is disposed towards said right proximal end on said right rake handle and on a section of said left rake handle closest to said right proximal end.
35. (new): The picking rake in claim 27 wherein at least one of the rake heads further includes a face extension comprising an additional rake head area extending towards the side adjacent the other rake head such that each of the rake heads has an overlapping section when both rake units are joined together for gathering material, whereby said face extension allows for a wider raking head thereby increasing the pick up volume when used for picking material, and whereby said overlapping section augments functions of said first means.
36. (new): The dual handle in claim 33 wherein said second handle has a lower part and an upper part, said lower part substantially the same length as said first handle, wherein said upper part is receivable inside said lower part, whereby said upper part can be extended when gathering and retracted when picking.
37. (new): The picking rake in claim 27 wherein said first means is disposed onto contacting parts of said right rake unit and said left rake unit and comprise of at least one selection from a group comprising:
- A. a means comprising provision for:

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- a) a cylindrical component disposed on one of the rake handles.
 - b) at least one gripper, disposed along the other rake handle, said gripper capable of snugly receiving said cylindrical component when the rake handles are urged alongside each other by said user,

B. a means comprising provision for:

- a) a hand grip or equivalent handling member disposed on one of the rake handles,
- b) a cylindrical component disposed on the other rake handle,
- c) at least one gripper disposed on said hand grip or equivalent handling member, said gripper capable of snugly receiving said cylindrical component when the rake handles are urged alongside each other by said user,

C. a means comprising provision for:

- a) a cylindrical component on one of the rake handles,
- b) a hole disposed on said cylindrical component,
- c) a snap button disposed inside said cylindrical component, said snap button having at least one positioning head engaged outwardly in said hole,
- d) a gripper disposed on the other rake handle said gripper capable of snugly receiving said cylindrical component when the rake handles are urged alongside each other, and
- e) an aperture disposed on said gripper, said aperture capable of further engaging said positioning head engaged in said hole when said cylindrical component is received inside said gripper,

D. a means comprising provision for:

- a) a first elongated component disposed on one of the rake handles,
- b) a hole disposed on said first elongated component,
- c) a snap button disposed inside said first elongated component, said snap button having at least one positioning head engaged outwardly in said hole,
- d) a second elongated component disposed on the other rake handle, said second elongated component capable of snugly receiving said first elongated

component inside when the rake handles are urged alongside each other by said user, and

- e) an aperture disposed on said second elongated member, said aperture capable of further engaging said positioning head engaged in said hole when said first elongated component is received inside said second elongated component,

E. a means comprising provision for:

- a) a face extension on at least one of the rake heads comprising an additional rake head area extending towards the side adjacent the other rake head such that said face extension and said other rake head each has an overlapping section when both rake units are joined together for gathering material,
- b) a cavity on one said overlapping section, said cavity having a rim, and
- c) a protrusion on another said overlapping section comprising a hook-like extension,

whereby when the two rake heads are brought together, said protrusion engages into said cavity, and said hook-like extension latches onto said rim of said cavity thereby deterring separation of the two rake heads,

F. a means comprising provision for a hand grip for each of the rake handles, each of said hand grip comprising a branch extending substantially transversely from the rake handle, the branches capable of interlocking with each other when the rake handles are urged alongside each other by said user.

38. (new): The picking rake in claim 27

- a) wherein said right rake handle further includes a right arm grip at its said right proximal end,
- b) wherein said right arm grip comprises a right hand grip and a right arm leverage for a first hand of said user, said right arm leverage disposed closer to said user than said right hand grip,
- c) wherein said left rake handle has a lower part and an upper part, said lower part substantially the same length as said right rake handle,


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- d) wherein said left rake handle further includes a left arm grip disposed on said lower part,
 - e) wherein said left arm grip comprises a left hand grip and a left arm leverage for a second hand of said user, said left arm leverage disposed closer to said user than said left hand grip,
 - f) wherein said left hand grip and said right hand grip each comprise a branch extending substantially transversely from their respective rake handles,
 - g) wherein said right arm leverage and said left arm leverage each comprise a branch extending substantially transversely from their respective rake handles and curved to form a partial loop, and
 - h) wherein said right arm grip and said left arm grip are each disposed such that they are within the reach of said user's extended arm and such that the hand grips are substantially aligned when said right rake unit and said left rake unit are held together by said first means,
- whereby holding said right rake unit via said right arm grip with said first hand and holding said left rake unit via said left arm grip with said second hand, said user is able to fasten, unfasten, and refasten the two rake units.

39. (new): The picking rake in claim 38 wherein said upper part is receivable inside said lower part of said left rake handle by some fifth means, whereby the handle can be extended when raking and can be retracted when picking.

40. (new): The picking rake in claim 38

- a) wherein said right rake handle is an integral part of said right rake head, and
 - b) wherein said lower part of said left rake handle is an integral part of said left rake head,
- whereby the rake head and the arm grip for each of the rake units can be fabricated as one piece.

41. (new): A handle used in conjunction with a gathering component of a raking and picking-up tool comprising:

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- a) an elongated member having a proximal end and a distal end,
 - b) an arm grip comprising a hand grip and an arm leverage, said arm leverage comprising a branch extending substantially transversely from said proximal end and curved to form a partial loop, said hand grip comprising a branch extending substantially transversely between said distal end and said proximal end, and
 - c) wherein said distal end can be mounted on said gathering component, whereby a pair of the gathering components can each be outfitted with said handle adapted for a left hand and a right hand of a user thereby transforming said pair into a picker-upper.

42. (new): The handle in claim 41 wherein said elongated member comprises at least two telescoping tubes adjustably fixable in length by some sixth means, whereby one handle can meet the arm reach of users of varying statures.

43. (new): A method of deriving raking and picking up capabilities from a single tool comprising:

- a) providing a rake having dual raking heads and dual handles joined substantially side by side, said rake capable of being parted into two units, each unit having its own rake head and rake handle,
- b) providing fastening means that can unite together yet also allow said two units to be parted and repositioned to face each other,
- c) parting said two units,
- d) bringing the two rake heads substantially face to face,
- e) swinging at least one of the units away from the other and urging the parted rake heads into a pile of material,

- f) swinging at least one of the units towards the other until the material is snug between the two rake heads,
- g) lifting the parted units with material over a receptacle,
- h) releasing picked material by swinging at least one of the units away from the other,
- i) reconnecting said two units, and
- j) gathering material with the connected units,
- whereby the picking up process simulates what a user would do when picking up bulky material with his own hands.


44. (new): The method in claim 43 further including providing at least one of the rake handles with a handling member comprising a branch extending substantially transversely therefrom, whereby said user can part the dual handles, pick up material, reconnect the dual handles, and rake material while holding on to said handling member.

45. (new): The method in claim 44 wherein the parting and reconnecting steps comprise urging sideways outwardly and inwardly respectively said handling member on at least one of the rake handles.

46. (new): The method in claim 44 wherein the parting and reconnecting steps comprise urging forward and backward respectively said handling member on at least one of the rake handles.

47. (new): A method of providing and using a quasi-permanently fixable length of a handle of a tool having a rake head that can gather and pick up material comprising:

- a) providing a set of nesting tubes comprising at least two tubes, said set having at least a smallest tube and a largest tube, each of said tubes having a proximal end and a distal end,

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- b) fixedly retaining by some seventh means any of the smaller tubes inside the larger tubes in said set thereby affecting differing usable total lengths for said handle,
 - c) mounting said distal end of said largest tube to said rake head of said tool,
 - d) extending said handle by pulling out said proximal end of said smallest tube,
 - e) gathering said material, and
 - f) retracting the extended handle by pushing in said proximal end of said smallest tube inside the larger tubes,
- whereby a user can pre-adjust the extended length of said handle quasi-permanently and get only that length every time it is extended for use in gathering material.

48. (new): The method in claim 47 wherein said seventh means comprises:

- a) wherein said set of nesting tubes includes a second smallest tube, a third smallest tube and so on and so forth until a numbered smallest tube becomes equivalent to said largest tube,
- b) wherein said smallest tube is receivable inside said second smallest tube receivable inside said third smallest tube and so on and so forth and altogether receivable inside said largest tube,
- c) wherein the distal ends of all tubes in said set except said largest tube have enlarged cross sections,
- d) wherein the proximal ends of all tubes in said set except said smallest tube have reduced cross sections,
- e) wherein each of the tubes in said set has a longitudinal center,
- f) wherein the longitudinal centers of all tubes in said set coincide when the tubes are nested together,
- g) providing for each of the tubes in said set at least a pair of apertures disposed towards said proximal end of each of the tubes, said pair of apertures going laterally through its said longitudinal center,

- h) providing a retaining cross bar or equivalent of size that can snugly go through and cover any of said pair of apertures,
 - i) aligning the pairs of apertures of the tubes in said set that are to be retained,
 - j) urging said retaining cross bar through all the aligned apertures, and
 - k) securing said retaining cross bar in place,
- whereby any number of tubes starting from the smallest to the second largest can remain nested inside their respective larger tubes depending on what apertures are aligned for said cross bar.

49. (new): The method in claim 47 wherein said seventh means comprises:

- a) wherein said set of nesting tubes includes a second smallest tube, a third smallest tube and so on and so forth until a numbered smallest tube becomes equivalent to said largest tube,
- b) wherein said smallest tube is receivable inside said second smallest tube receivable inside said third smallest tube and so on and so forth and altogether receivable inside said largest tube,
- c) wherein the distal ends of all tubes in said set except said largest tube have enlarged cross sections,
- d) wherein the proximal ends of all tubes in said set except said smallest tube have reduced cross sections,
- e) wherein each of the tubes in said set has a longitudinal center,
- f) wherein the longitudinal centers of all tubes in said set coincide when the tubes are nested together,
- g) providing for each of the tubes in said set at least a pair of apertures disposed towards said distal end of each of the tubes, said pair of apertures going laterally through its said longitudinal center,
- h) providing a retaining cross bar or equivalent of size that can snugly go through and cover any of said pair of apertures,
- i) aligning the pairs of apertures of the tubes in said set that are to be retained,

- j) urging said retaining cross bar through all the aligned apertures, and
 - k) securing said retaining cross bar in place,
- whereby any number of tubes starting from the second largest to the smallest can remain nested inside their respective larger tubes depending on what apertures are aligned for said cross bar.

50. (new): A method of providing a telescoping rake handle for a rake that can gather and pick material comprising:

- a) providing at least two tubes each having a longitudinal center, a distal end and a proximal end, and an inner diameter,
- b) wherein a smallest tube is receivable inside a second smallest tube receivable inside a third smallest tube and so on and so forth and altogether receivable inside a largest tube,
- c) providing for each of said tubes a pair of apertures going laterally through its longitudinal center and disposed toward its distal end,
- d) providing for each of said tubes a retaining cross bar snugly receivable inside said pair of apertures for each of said tubes,
- e) wherein said retaining cross bar is of length longer than the inner diameter of its respective tube but no longer than the inner diameter of the next larger tube,
- f) urging said retaining cross bar into its respective pair of apertures,
- g) providing a flexible cord-like member for each of said tubes except said smallest tube, said flexible cord-like member about as long as said largest tube,
- h) securing one end of a first of the flexible cord-like members onto the retaining cross bar of said smallest tube,
- i) inserting the other end of said first of the flexible cord-like members into the proximal end of said second smallest tube and securing it onto the retaining cross bar at its distal end such that said first of the flexible cord-like members

is taut when said smallest tube is at an extended position relative to said second smallest tube,

- j) securing one end of a second of the flexible cord-like members onto the retaining cross bar of said second smallest tube,
- k) inserting the other end of said second of the flexible cord-like members into the proximal end of said third smallest tube and securing it onto the crossbar at its distal end such that said second of the flexible cord-like members is taut when said second smallest tube is at an extended position relative to said third smallest tube, and
- l) repeating the steps wherein one end of each one of the remaining flexible cord-like members is secured to the retaining cross bar on each of the remaining said tubes, and the other end of each one of said remaining flexible cord-like members is inserted into the proximal end of the next larger tube and secured onto the cross-bar at its distal end,

whereby the taut flexible cord-like members retain said tubes together in the extended position.

51. (new): The picking rake in claim 27 wherein at least one of the rake handles further includes at least one hand grip or equivalent handling member comprising a branch extending substantially transversely therefrom and disposed thereon within reach of said user with an extended arm whereon said user can hold said picking rake when raking and picking material.

52. (new): The handle in claim 38

- a) wherein said right arm grip further includes:
 - a) an extra right branch next to said right hand grip upon which the open first hand of said user can rest,
 - b) a right hand strap for anchoring said open first hand of said user on said right arm grip,

- b) wherein said left arm grip further includes:
 - a) an extra left branch next to said left hand grip upon which the open second hand of said user can rest, and
 - b) a left hand strap for anchoring said open second hand of said user on said left arm grip,

whereby said user can use said picking rake for picking material even with hands open.


53. (new): The dual-handle in claim 31 wherein said third means to effect a movable handling member on at least one of the handles is selected from a group comprising:

A. a means comprising of:

- a) providing the handle with a plurality of apertures along its length,
- b) providing said handling member with:
 - a) an additional short outer tube disposed substantially transversely on said handling member, said short outer tube snugly receivable outside the handle,
 - b) at least one hole disposed on said short outer tube, and
 - c) at least one snap button externally mounted on said short outer tube, said snap button having a positioning head engaged inwardly into said hole and capable of engaging further into any of said apertures along the handle,


B. a means comprising of providing said handling member with:

- a) an additional short outer tube disposed substantially transversely on said handling member, said short outer tube snugly receivable outside the handle,
- b) a window disposed on said short outer tube, and
- c) a friction generator 166 or equivalent disposed on said short outer tube, said friction generator having a lopsided knob head capable of communicating to the outside surface of the handle via said window,

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- C. a means comprising of providing said handling member with an additional tubular clamp 2002-2 or equivalent disposed substantially transversely on said handling member, said tubular clamp tightly receivable outside the handle,
- D. a means comprising of providing said handling member with:
- a) an additional short outer tube disposed substantially transversely on said handling member, said short outer tube snugly receivable outside the handle,
 - b) a reinforced aperture having threaded inner walls disposed on said short outer tube, and
 - c) a thumb screw threaded to match the thread on said inner walls and disposed inside said reinforced aperture, said thumb screw having a tip capable of communicating to the outside surface of the handle,
- E. a means comprising:
- a) providing the handle with a plurality of first lateral through-holes along its length, said first lateral through-holes going through the longitudinal center of the handle,
 - b) providing said handling member with:
 - a) an additional short outer tube disposed substantially transversely on said handling member, said short outer tube snugly receivable outside the handle,
 - b) a second lateral through-hole passing through the longitudinal center of said short outer tube,
 - c) a bolt or equivalent of size capable of going through and covering any of said first lateral through-holes and said second lateral through-hole, and
 - d) a nut or equivalent to keep said bolt in place.

54. (new): The dual-handle in claim 32 wherein said fourth means to effect an adjustable length on at least one of the handles is selected from a group comprising:

- A. a means wherein the handle comprises:

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- a) a pair of telescoping tubes comprising a first inner tube receivable inside a first outer tube each having a first near end and a first far end,
 - b) wherein said handling member is disposed on said first outer tube,
 - c) a plurality of apertures disposed along the length of said first outer tube,
 - d) at least one first hole disposed on said first near end of said first inner tube, and
 - e) a first snap button having at least one first positioning head, said first snap button disposed inside said first near end of said first inner tube, said first positioning head engaged outwardly into said first hole and capable of being further engaged into any of said apertures along said first outer tube,
- whereby the length of the handle is determined by the location of the aperture said first positioning head is engaged in,

B. a means wherein the handle comprises:

- a) a pair of telescoping tubes comprising a second inner tube receivable inside a second outer tube, each having a second near end and a second far end,
- b) wherein said handling member is disposed on said second outer tube,
- c) a second hole disposed on said second far end of said second outer tube,
- d) a plurality of apertures disposed along the length of said second inner tube, and
- e) a second snap button externally mounted on said second far end of said second outer tube said second snap button having a second positioning head engaged inwardly into said second hole and capable of engaging into any of said apertures along said second inner tube,

C. a means wherein the handle comprises:

- a) a pair of telescoping tubes comprising a third inner tube receivable inside a third outer tube, each having a third near end and a third far end,
- b) wherein said handling member is disposed on said third outer tube,
- c) a window disposed on said third far end of said third outer tube, and

- d) a friction generator 166 or equivalent disposed on said third outer tube having a lopsided knob head capable of communicating to an outside surface of the handle via said window,

D. a means wherein the handle comprises:

- a) a pair of telescoping tubes comprising a fourth inner tube receivable inside a fourth outer tube, each having a fourth near end and a fourth far end,
- b) wherein said handling member is disposed on said fourth outer tube,
- c) a short slit disposed on said fourth far end of said fourth outer tube, and
- d) a tubular clamp or equivalent tightly receivable over said slit,

E. a means wherein the handle comprises:

- a) a pair of telescoping tubes comprising a fifth inner tube receivable inside a fifth outer tube, each having a fifth near end and a fifth far end,
- b) wherein said handling member is disposed on said fifth outer tube, and
- c) a twist lock plug 170 or equivalent installed in the fifth near end of said fifth inner tube,

F. a means wherein the handle comprises:

- a) a pair of telescoping tubes comprising a sixth inner tube receivable inside a sixth outer tube, the sixth inner and outer tubes each having a sixth near end and a sixth far end,
- b) wherein said handling member is disposed on said sixth outer tube,
- c) a reinforced aperture having threaded inner walls disposed on said sixth outer tube near its said sixth far end, and
- d) a thumb screw threaded to match the thread on said inner walls and disposed inside said reinforced aperture, said thumb screw having a tip capable of communicating to the outside surface of the handle,

G. a means wherein the handle comprises:

- a) a pair of telescoping tubes comprising a seventh inner tube receivable inside a seventh outer tube, the seventh inner and outer tubes each having a seventh near end and a seventh far end,

- b) wherein said handling member is disposed on said seventh outer tube,
- c) a plurality of third lateral through-holes disposed along the length of said seventh inner tube, said third lateral through-holes going through the longitudinal center of said seventh inner tube,
- d) a fourth lateral through-hole passing through the longitudinal center of said seventh outer tube disposed near said seventh far end of said seventh outer tube,
- e) a bolt of size capable of going through and covering any of said third lateral through-holes and said fourth lateral through-hole, and
- f) a nut or equivalent to keep said bolt in place,

H. a means wherein said gathering component of said tool comprises:

- a) an elongated cavity capable of receiving the distal end of the handle,
- b) a plurality of apertures disposed along said elongated cavity,
- c) a fifth hole disposed near the distal end of the handle, and
- d) a snap button having at least one positioning head disposed inside the distal end of the handle, said positioning head engaged outwardly into said fifth hole and capable of engaging into any of said apertures along said elongated cavity, and

I. a means wherein the handle comprises at least two tubes each having tapering cross sections, said two tubes being an inner tube receivable inside an outer tube, whereby the cross sections of said inner tube and said outer tube keep both tubes together in the extended position without the use of extra retainers.

55. (new): The picking rake in claim 39 wherein said fifth means to hold together said upper part and said lower part is selected from a group comprising:

- A. a means wherein said upper part and said lower part of said left rake handle each has a far end and a near end and a cross section tapering from its said far end to its said near end, whereby the tapering cross sections keep said upper part and said lower part together in the extended position,

B. a means comprising:

- a) wherein said upper part and said lower part of said left rake handle each has a far end and a near end,
- b) wherein said far end of said upper part has an enlarged cross section, and
- c) wherein said near end of said lower part has a reduced cross section,
- whereby the enlarged and reduced cross sections collide to keep the upper and lower parts together in the extended position.

56. (new): The handle in claim 42 wherein said sixth means to adjustably fix said length of said telescoping tubes comprises elements or their equivalents selected from a group comprising:

- a) an internally mounted snap button,
- b) an externally mounted snap button,
- c) a friction generator,
- d) a tubular clamp,
- e) a twist lock plug,
- f) a thumb screw,
- g) a nut and bolt, and
- h) a tapering cross section.